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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products February 2005

The U.S. Census Bureau, announced today that preliminary February steel imports were **\$1.8 billion (2.1 million metric tons)** compared to the preliminary January totals of \$1.8 billion (2.2 million metric tons).

The January to February change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected decreases primarily in hot rolled sheets, hot dipped galvanized sheets and strip, and cold rolled sheets. Increases occurred primarily in reinforcing bars and plates cut lengths. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected a decrease primarily with Brazil. Increases occurred primarily with Mexico and Russia.

The year to date final statistics through January 2005 showed steel imports of 2.4 million metric tons, an increase of 0.3 million metric tons from the 2.1 million metric tons through January 2004. The largest commodity increases were in hot dipped galvanized sheets and strip, cold rolled sheets, and hot rolled sheets. A decrease occurred primary in wire rods. The largest country increases were with Brazil, Taiwan, and China. The largest country decrease was with Germany.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is April 26, 2005